

**In the Specification:**

- Please insert the following paragraph immediately above "Field of the Invention" on page 1, line 3:

B1  
This application is a continuation of U.S. application serial number 09/255,235, filed February 22, 1999, now U.S. patent no. 6,345,072.

- Please amend the abstract, as follows:

B2  
A digital communications link, protocol and related circuits are ~~disclosed~~ provided which achieve a scaleable performance rate through a combination of clock scaling and/or variable frame sizing. The system is used within a personal computer, thus allowing the latter to be interoperable with any number of different communications protocols, including xDSL based transmission standards, and to set up communications links of varying capacity and performance.